AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior version and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule, wherein:

(a) the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine ~~nucleotdes~~ nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;

(b) each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;

(c) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand ~~of the nucleic acid molecule~~ is complementary to a human intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM) RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:439;

(d) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand ~~of the nucleic acid~~ is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human ICAM RNA sequence; and

(e) ~~about~~ 50 ~~to 100~~ percent or more of the nucleotides in ~~the sense~~ each strand ~~and about 50 to 100 percent of the nucleotides in the antisense strand are chemically modified with~~ comprise a 2'-sugar modification[[s]], wherein the 2'-sugar modification of any of the pyrimidine nucleotides differs from the 2'-sugar modification of any of the purine nucleotides ~~independently selected from the group consisting of 2′-O-methyl, 2′-deoxy-2′-fluoro, 2′-deoxy, phosphorothioate and deoxyabasic modifications; and~~

~~(f) one or more of the purine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2′-O-methyl purine nucleotides and one or more of the pyrimidine nucleotides present in one or both strands of the nucleic acid molecule are 2′-deoxy-2′-fluoro pyrimidine nucleotides~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises ~~one or more~~ ribonucleotides.

4-15. (Canceled)

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16. (Currently Amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5' and 3' ends ~~of the sense strand~~.

17. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 16, wherein said terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

18-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim ~~1~~47, wherein ~~the antisense strand includes a terminal~~ one of the phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages is at the 3' end of the antisense strand.

22-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the 5'-end of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.

31. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense strand, sense strand, or both the antisense strand and sense strand include a 3′-overhang ~~of 1-3 nucleotides~~.

34. (Canceled)

35. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein the 2'-sugar modification is selected from the group consisting of 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-O-methyl, and 2'-deoxy.

36. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein the 2'-deoxy sugar modification is a pyrimidine modification.

37. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein the 2'-O-methyl sugar modification is a pyrimidine modification.

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38. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein the 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro sugar modification is a pyrimidine modification.

39. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 36, 37, or 38, wherein said pyrimidine modification is in the sense strand.

40. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 36, 37, or 38, wherein said pyrimidine modification is in the antisense strand.

41. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 36, 37, or 38, wherein said pyrimidine modification is in the sense strand and the antisense strand.

42. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein the 2'-O-methyl sugar modification is a purine modification.

43. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 35, wherein the 2'-deoxy sugar modification is a purine modification.

44. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said purine modification is in the sense strand.

45. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 42 or 43, wherein said purine modification is in the antisense strand.

46. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 43, wherein said purine modification is in the sense strand and the antisense strand.

47. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid molecule includes one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

48. (New) A chemically modified nucleic acid molecule, wherein:

(a) the nucleic acid molecule comprises a sense strand and a separate antisense strand, each strand having one or more pyrimidine nucleotides and one or more purine nucleotides;

(b) each strand of the nucleic acid molecule is independently 18 to 27 nucleotides in length;

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(c) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the antisense strand is complementary to a human intercellular adhesion molecule (ICAM) RNA sequence comprising SEQ ID NO:439;

(d) an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the sense strand is complementary to the antisense strand and comprises an 18 to 27 nucleotide sequence of the human ICAM RNA sequence; and

(e) 50 percent or more of the nucleotides in each strand comprise a 2'-sugar modification, wherein the 2'-sugar modification of any of the purine nucleotides in the sense strand differs from the 2'-sugar modification of any of the purine nucleotides in the antisense strand.

49. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, wherein the 2'-sugar modification is selected from the group consisting of 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, 2'-O-methyl, and 2'-deoxy.

50. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 49, wherein the 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro sugar modification is a pyrimidine modification.

51. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, wherein the pyrimidine modification is on the sense strand.

52. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, wherein the pyrimidine modification is on the antisense strand.

53. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 50, wherein the pyrimidine modification is on the sense strand and the antisense strand.

54. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 49, wherein the 2'-O-methyl sugar modification is a purine modification.

55. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 49, wherein the 2'-deoxy sugar modification is a purine modification.

56. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 55, wherein the purine modification is in the sense strand.

57. (New) The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 54 or 55, wherein the purine modification is in the antisense strand.

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58. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, wherein the nucleic acid molecule comprises ribonucleotides.

59. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, wherein the sense strand includes a terminal cap moiety at the 5'-end, the 3'-end, or both of the 5'- and 3'- ends.

60. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 59, wherein the terminal cap moiety is an inverted deoxy abasic moiety.

61. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, wherein the nucleic acid molecule includes one or more phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

62. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 61, wherein one of the phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages is at the 3'-end of the antisense strand.

63. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, wherein the 5'-end of the antisense strand includes a terminal phosphate group.

64. (New) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, wherein the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense strand and the antisense strand include a 3'-overhang.

65. (New) A composition comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 48, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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